



Rock out in Tempe

The Circle K Tempe Music Festival returns to rock for a seventh year April 3-4 at Tempe Beach Park, with a variety of national, regional and local music acts on several stages. The festival is proud to present Kid Rock, Roger Clyne and the Peacemakers, Outlaws, Cowboy Mouth and more on Friday, April 3. The following day, 3 Doors Down, All American Rejects, MUTEMATH, Shiny Toy Guns and more will perform on the main stage.

Other attractions include kids activities, the SRP Garage Band Competition, interactive music displays, extreme sports demonstrations and live interviews with musicians on TMF TV. Guests can also enjoy food booths and retail vendors.

Since it began in 2003, the Circle K Tempe Music Festival has become the premier music festival in Arizona, attracting nearly 25,000 people each year. In spring 2008, the festival was recognized as Arizona's Best Annual Music Festival by azcentral.com's Best Annual Readers' and Critic's Choice Awards.

For more information, visit
www.tempemusicfestival.com.



Tempe starts first affordable housing fund in Valley

By Tempe City Councilmember Corey Woods

Throughout its history, the City of Tempe has offered diverse housing options that permitted families of varying income levels to reside in our community. In recent years, economic forces have discouraged a diversity of housing. A growing percentage of Tempe residents are unable to meet or maintain the household income level necessary to support residing here and, therefore, must look to other communities for housing.

Despite the homes that have been either built or rehabilitated by non-profit organizations that serve our community, there is still a greater need for affordable housing that would benefit many of Tempe's working families.

As Chair of the City Council's Housing Committee, I am working with Vice Mayor Shana Ellis, who also serves on the committee, to discover new alternative housing opportunities in order to maintain the diversity of population that has historically characterized Tempe.

On Jan. 22, the City Council adopted a resolution creating the Valley's first Housing Trust Fund (HTF) as recommended in the city's 2007 Affordable Housing Strategy Plan. In addition to the HTF, the Council approved the creation of the Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board. The board's members will make recommendations on securing a dedicated funding source and review applications for funding.

Funds will be used primarily for affordable housing development activities designed to assist low and moderate income households. These activities may include:

- New construction of sale or rental housing
- Rehabilitation of existing housing for sale or rent
- New construction or rehabilitation of mixed-use buildings
- Acquisition of property
- Adaptive reuse

Housing may be either single-family or multi-family. Funds may also be used for building as well as housing for special needs populations.

The HTF and other recommendations of the Affordable Housing Strategy Plan are state-of-the-art strategies designed to complement each other and facilitate the city's ability to implement its housing goals and policy.

The Housing Committee's work plan is available at www.tempe.gov/clerk/CouncilCommittees.htm. I look forward to collaborating with the community on ideas and solutions for Tempe. Please contact me anytime with feedback or questions at 480-350-8798 or by e-mail at corey_woods@tempe.gov.

Celebrate Mother Nature in April

Tempe community members are invited to take part in several events next month that celebrate sustainability and Earth Month:

Tempe Bike Month

Tempe will hold its 18th annual Bike Month in April to encourage people to use bikes for transportation. Two events are part of the month-long celebration: Bike-A-Palooza and Bike to Work and School Day.

Bike-A-Palooza is set for Sunday, April 5, from 7 a.m. to noon, at Kiwanis Park, 6111 S. All-America Way. This free event features a bicycle swap meet, community ride, bike rodeo, helmet fittings, a bicycle raffle and more. Live entertainment will be provided by Radio Disney and free artist-designed T-shirts will be distributed to the first 300 community ride participants. Bring a pair of old athletic shoes to be recycled and receive two bicycle raffle tickets.

Bike to Work and School Day is Wednesday, April 22, from 6-8 a.m. This fun, annual event includes free breakfast and T-shirts for the first 400 riders.

For more information on Tempe Bike Month, call 480-858-2215, or visit www.tempe.gov/tim.

Earth Day 5K and Green Expo



Feel the earth move under your feet at the Tempe Earth Day 5K and Green Expo on Wednesday, April 22, from 5-8 p.m. The event will feature a competitive

3.1-mile run, a non-competitive kids dash, a free green expo and music, all in the beautiful setting of the Art Park adjacent to the Tempe Center for the Arts at 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. Enter the race for \$18 by April 16 at www.runningmasters.net, click on "Upcoming Events," or register for \$25 the day of the event. Call 480-350-8625 or e-mail lake@tempe.gov for more information.



...because once is not enough.

Earth Month recycling event

Residents can protect themselves from identity theft and help the environment by participating in a free multi-purpose recycling marathon event on Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free recycling event will feature four stations designed to help keep personal documents, electronics, athletic shoes and plastic bags out of landfills. Items suitable for recycling can be brought to the event at 2250 W. Broadway Rd., Suite 104, in Mesa. Each participant will receive a free Tempe reusable shopping bag. Recycling opportunities include:

Shred-a-Thon: Bring confidential documents and watch as they are securely shredded, eliminating the potential for identity theft.

E-Waste: Recycle computers, cell phones, monitors and other computer equipment safely and securely. Televisions are not accepted. For information on what can be recycled, call Green Tech Assets at 480-964-3031.

Nike Reuse-a-Shoe Program: Any brand of used athletic shoes will be collected and recycled as resurfacing material for sports courts. Laces and eyelets should be removed from shoes if possible.

Bag Central Station: Participants can drop off plastic shopping bags for recycling.

For more information, call 480-350-8145 or visit www.tempe.gov/recycling.

Mayor declares April 24 Arbor Day

Mayor Hugh Hallman has declared Friday, April 24, Arbor Day in Tempe. The designation invites Tempe residents to dedicate the day to planting trees to enhance the beauty of our community.

The first Arbor Day was celebrated in 1872 when J. Sterling Morton proposed a tree-planting holiday to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture. The holiday is now observed worldwide. To learn about ways to participate in Arbor Day, visit www.arborday.org.

Tempe residents and businesses are also invited to donate time or money to Trees for Tempe, a Parks and Recreation program dedicated to replacing damaged community trees. Visit www.tempe.gov/parks for more information.

Draining your pool or spa

Tempe residents and property managers should be aware of city guidelines for maintaining and draining any swimming pool or spa. Chemicals used in maintaining pools and spas often contain acidic or alkaline cleaning compounds, which can negatively impact plants and aquatic life in our streams.

It is highly recommended that all discharge water be kept on your property and used for landscape irrigation. This may require discharging intermittently for several days if you have limited landscape area to prevent runoff onto the right-of-way or onto a neighbor's property. Discharge of pool water to residential cleanouts is prohibited under Tempe City Code. Pool drainage water may be discharged to the storm drain system or street when correctly de-chlorinated and pollutant free, if it does not create a nuisance or safety hazard, and if it is properly permitted. Backwash water can only be discharged to your property.

Drainage water must be de-chlorinated prior to discharge. This may be accomplished by not adding chlorine or any other chemicals for at least 48 hours prior to discharge, and by testing pool water for chlorine prior to discharge. The water from spas, pools and fountains shall not be discharged into the street or storm water system without obtaining a permit at least 48 hours in advance by calling 480-350-8521 or by visiting www.tempe.gov/engineering/docs/Pool_permit.htm. Failure to obtain a permit may result in a citation. The permit must be posted at the discharge site, easily visible from the street.

2009 Neighborhood Workshop and Neighbor of the Year Awards

Tempe will recognize the contributions of its residents and provide an opportunity for community building on Saturday, April 18, from 7:30 a.m. to noon, at the 2009 Neighborhood Workshop and Neighbor of the Year Awards.

A continental breakfast will be offered at this free, half-day event at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center, 655 E. Southern Ave., followed by an awards ceremony saluting the work of dedicated community members. Mayor Hugh Hallman and the City Council will present the Neighbor of the Year Awards, followed by keynote speaker Donovan Rypkema's presentation of "Saving Our Heritage Buildings: Why Historic Preservation Helps Strengthen a Community," sponsored by the Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation.

Residents are encouraged to register for two of the four workshops that will be offered after the awards ceremony.

Dollar\$ & Sense: Presenter Vic Linoff shares a practical guide to Historic Districts, Local Designation, National Register and Prop. 207.

Collecting and Preserving the Past through Oral History: Research historian Dan Killoren and Professor Emeritus of the Hispanic Research Center at Arizona State University, Dr. Santos Vega, showcase the power of oral history to preserve heritage.

A Community Leader's Guide to Preservation: Donovan Rypkema will examine the differences between the terms "sustainable," "green" and "economically viable." Rypkema is an authority on the positive economics of preserving historic buildings and structures.

Carl Hayden Campus for Sustainability: Mayor Hugh Hallman will present this project's history, features, renderings and integration with Papago Park. Residents' efforts are needed to help build and preserve the campus, which honors our community's unique environment, diverse cultures and rich history.

The deadline to reserve a seat is Wednesday, April 15. To reserve a seat, visit www.tempe.gov/neighborhoods/workshop.htm, call Tempe's Neighborhood Services Division at 480-350-8234 or e-mail neighborhoods@tempe.gov.



Cotton Farming

Tempe's thriving economy once revolved around the farming of alfalfa, barley, wheat and cotton. When E. W. Hudson developed and perfected Pima Long Staple Cotton, he and fellow farmers Charles Waterhouse and D.J. Frankenberg began to grow it in Tempe and changed farming and Tempe's economy significantly. In 1912, other farmers began to switch to growing cotton and by 1920 they were concentrating all of their efforts on the crop.

In 1914, Tempe National Bank and the Salt River Valley Cotton Growers created the first long-staple cotton gin in the United States by shipping equipment from England. The Tempe Cotton Exchange had two seedhouses, two ginning areas and a large yard where bales of cotton were stored. The seedhouses were important because they stored the separated seeds so that they could be used to plant the following year. Tempe Cotton Exchange's seedhouse was located at Seventh Street and Ash Avenue until it was demolished in 1991.

Demand for cotton during World War I was so high that farmers could hardly keep up. During the harvest season, the Tempe gin operated day and night to bale more than 12,500 pounds of cotton per day. The strength of the cotton was very valuable and was used to make tires and industrial fabrics. In 1919, there were more than 140,000 acres of cotton farms in the Valley. At its peak war-time price, cotton was \$1.25 per pound.

As all good things must come to an end, the cotton value soon fell in what is now known as The Cotton Crash of 1920. The demand for cotton fell after World War I and farmers had to go back to farming other crops. Much of the land in Tempe that was used to grow cotton and other crops became suburban developments after World War II.

Calendar

City Council Meetings

The March/April schedule for Tempe City Council meetings

March 5, 2009

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

March 26, 2009

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

April 2, 2009

Special CIP Work Session
3 p.m.

April 9, 2009

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

April 16, 2009

Special O&M Budget Review Session - 3 p.m.

April 23, 2009

6 p.m., Issue Review Session
7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and the Internet at www.tempe.gov/tempe11.

City Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St. Agendas are posted 24 hours before each meeting outside the Council Chambers and on the second floor of City Hall. Meetings are subject to change. Confirm dates and times with the City Clerk's Office, 480-350-8241 or on the Web site at www.tempe.gov/clerk.

Tempe City Council

Hugh Hallman, Mayor

Shana Ellis, Vice Mayor

P. Ben Arredondo, Councilmember

Mark W. Mitchell, Councilmember

Joel Navarro, Councilmember

Onnie Shekerjian, Councilmember

Corey Woods, Councilmember

Charlie Meyer, City Manager

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City of Tempe
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News you can use

Readers note: New look for Tempe Today

As a cost-saving measure, Tempe Today is now being printed in a two-color format rather than full color.

Tempe wins Smart Growth Award for its vision

Urban Land Institute (ULI) Arizona has awarded the City of Tempe with the first-ever Smart Growth Award. The recognition cited Tempe's smart growth, which ULI defines as development that is economically sound, environmentally friendly and supportive of community livability. For more information on the award and the Urban Land Institute, visit www.arizona.uli.org. Learn about all of the recent awards Tempe has received at www.tempe.gov/business.

Kiwanis Recreation Center adds fitness center

Kiwanis Recreation Center, 6111 S. All-America Way, now features a fitness center with cardiovascular and strength equipment, free weights, stability balls, tubing and bands. Packages are available with no contracts or joining fees for various levels of use. Certified personal trainers are available upon request. Inquire at the front desk to receive two free weeks of unlimited use to the Kiwanis Fitness Center. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/fitness or call 480-350-5201 or 480-350-5050 TTY.

Tempe to hold bus and Orbit open houses

Tempe's Transportation Division, Tempe in Motion, is soliciting public input on the performance of several arterial bus routes and the Orbit neighborhood circulator system. Affected bus routes may include 30, 40, 44, 62 and 92. Two meetings will be held to gather information from residents and passengers on their experiences with the service and ideas for improvement using existing resources. At this time, expanding the Orbit system to neighborhoods south of the U.S. 60 is on hold.

Meetings will be held March 25, from 6-8 p.m., and March 26, from 2-4 p.m., in the second-floor Don Cassano Community Room at the Tempe Transportation Center, 200 E. Fifth St. Beginning March 2, residents may comment online at www.tempe.gov/tim. For information call 480-350-2775.

Kiwanis wave pool offers family fun

The wave pool at Kiwanis Recreation Center, 6111 S. All-America Way, offers several spring events for families:

- Girl Scouts Day: April 18, from 1-3 p.m. Free admission for Girl Scouts wearing their shirt or uniform.
- Happy Birthdays Day: April 25 and May 23, from 1-3 p.m. Free admission with proof of April and May birthdays, respectively.
- Mother's Day Weekend: May 9 and 10, from 1-3 p.m. Mothers get in free with their child's paid admission.
- Armed Forces Weekend: May 16 and 17, from 1-3 p.m. Free admission for hose with a military ID.

For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/kiwanis.

Tempe hosts free Movies in the Park

Bring your family, blankets and a picnic dinner to the free Spring Movies in the Park series, a Tempe tradition since 1979. Showtimes begin at dusk (approximately 7 p.m.) every Friday from April 3 to May 15 by the fire pit on the west side of Kiwanis Lake, at Mill Avenue and Baseline Road.

- April 3 – The Tale of Despereaux (PG)
- April 10 – Igor (PG)
- April 17 – Kung Fu Panda (PG)
- April 24 – Madagascar 2 (PG)
- May 1 – Wall E (G)
- May 8 – Bolt (PG)
- May 15 – Ratatouille (G)

For more information, call 480-350-5200.

Junior Achievement Run/Walk

The 5th Annual 5K for Junior Achievement returns on Saturday, April 25, at the Arts Park, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. Beginning at 8 a.m., the event features a timed run/fun walk for education. Children 6 under can participate in the Free Kids Fun Dash at 9 a.m. For more information, visit www.jaaz.org.